

# Burke County

Burke County is one of the state's original counties. It was created by the state constitution of 1777 from the colonial parish of St. George but within thirty years had to divide its territory with the newly formed Screven and Jefferson counties. Burke was the first county in Georgia to be designated.

The county was named to honor Edmond Burke, a member of Parliament who supported the colonies' interest. Waynesboro, the county seat, was named for General "Mad" Anthony Wayne who won fame during the final days of the Revolution in Georgia.

In 1779, around four hundred British soldiers engaged Americans led by John Twiggs and William Few at the Burke County Jail on McIntosh Creek. The British were driven off.

Halfway between Millen and Waynesboro is the Bellevue Plantation which was given as a royal grant by George III to Samuel Eastlake in 1767. What is believed to be the original plantation house is still standing and occupied by the same family that has owned it since 1835. In 1864 it was slightly damaged by gunfire when a Confederate cavalry unit led by Gen. Joseph Wheeler caught Kilpatrick's Union cavalry pillaging the house.

The last surviving edifice George Washington was known to have visited in Georgia had been located in Waynesboro but was demolished in 1932. A stone marker is all that is left now to commemorate his visit in 1791 to the house owned by Isaiah and Alexander Carter of Waynesboro.

Source: Foundations of Government - The Georgia Counties, Association County Commissioners of Georgia, 1976.

## News In This County

Barrow Announces \$900,000 Rural Healthcare Grant

May 27, 2005

Washington, DC -  
Committed to improving the quality of healthcare in Georgia's rural communities, 12th District Congressman John Barrow (D-GA) announced

today that Healthy Start programs in Burke and McDuffie Counties have been awarded a \$900,000 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Barrow Urges Greater Support for the Southeast Research and Education Center in Midville

January 31, 2007

Washington, DC -  
12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah) this week sent a letter to Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns urging him to expand the research role and mission of the Southeast Research and Education Center in Midville.

Rep. John Barrow Announces Upcoming Rural Listening Tour

May 26, 2005

On  
Wednesday, June 1st, Congressman John Barrow (D-GA) will launch a three day listening tour, visiting rural and agricultural communities across Georgia's 12th Congressional District. The tour will visit 9 counties - Taliaferro, Warren, Glascock, Jefferson, Burke, Jenkins, Bulloch, Screven, and Effingham County.

Barrow Applauds USDA Decision to Suspend FSA Office Closure Plan

October 19, 2005

Washington, DC -  
Georgia Congressman John Barrow (12th District) today issued the following statement in response to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) decision to set aside its "FSA Tomorrow" plan, a controversial proposal that would have closed and consolidated 665 Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices nationwide:

Barrow-Kelly Nuclear Security Amendment Passes House Transportation Committee

June 29, 2006

Washington, DC -

The House Transportation Committee yesterday passed a bipartisan nuclear security measure introduced by Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah) and Republican Congresswoman Sue Kelly (NY-19) that will give the U.S. Coast Guard primary security responsibilities for defending nuclear power facilities located on navigable waterways.

#### Congressman Barrow Announces Upcoming Veterans Town Hall Tour

February 14, 2006

Washington, DC -  
12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah) wants to hear from veterans across the 12th District. Starting on Tuesday, February 21st, Rep. Barrow will launch a three-day Veterans Town Hall Tour with 8 public forums planned in Athens, Augusta, Warrenton, Louisville, Waynesboro, Sylvania, Savannah, and Statesboro.

#### Barrow Asks House Appropriations Committee to Consider Renewed Funding for the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory

June 19, 2007

Washington, DC -  
During today's debate on the 2008 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, 12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah) urged fellow Representative Peter Visclosky, the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to work with his colleagues on the committee to restore funding for the Savannah River Ecology Lab (SREL).

#### Congressman John Barrow to Host Medicare Prescription Drug Workshop in Augusta

February 28, 2006

On  
Monday, March 6th, Augusta Congressman John Barrow (12th District) will host a Medicare Prescription Drug Workshop in Augusta to answer questions and address concerns about the new Medicare Prescription Drug Program - Part D.

#### Burke County Sheriff's Department Awarded \$15,239 Grant from the Department of Justice

June 20, 2006

Washington, DC -

12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow today announced that the Burke County Sheriff's Department has been awarded a \$15,239 grant from the Department of Justice's Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne JAG). The money will be used to buy new law enforcement equipment and new computers for the Sheriff's Department.

Congressman John Barrow Announces Upcoming 2006 Rural Listening Tour

April 13, 2006

Savannah, GA -

12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah) today announced the schedule for his upcoming 2006 12th District Rural Listening Tour. Starting on Wednesday, April 19th, Barrow will launch his now annual three-day listening tour, visiting rural and agricultural communities across Georgia's 12th Congressional District. The tour will visit 8 counties - Taliaferro, Glascock, Jefferson, Burke, Jenkins, Bulloch, Screven, and Effingham.